MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education  
Supervisory Officers and Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities

FROM: Avis Glaze  
Chief Student Achievement Officer  
The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat

DATE: November 17, 2006

SUBJECT: Ontario Focused Intervention Partnership Funds (OFIP Turnaround Strategy)

In our previous three memos, we indicated that our future direction would involve a major new initiative, the Ontario Focused Intervention Partnership (OFIP). This strategy will provide a range of supports for boards and schools in general, and more intense support for specific schools that have experienced difficulty in achieving continuous improvement.

As previously stated, OFIP has two components:

The **OFIP: Turnaround School Strategy** will focus on low performing schools. This will include two groupings of schools. The first will include schools with less that 34% of students at Levels 3 & 4 in reading in any two of the past three years. The second group of schools includes those where achievement has been static or declining and current achievement in reading is in the range between 34% to 50% for Levels 3 & 4.

The **OFIP: Board Strategy** will support boards in developing a board-wide strategy that will increase internal capacity for continuous improvement. All boards have the opportunity to be involved in OFIP. Boards that do not have any schools identified in the OFIP Turnaround School Strategy, are included in the OFIP Board Strategy.

The Ontario Focused Intervention Partnership (OFIP) funds are being transferred to your board the week of November 20, 2006 with the understanding that board...
improvement plans will include the high yield strategies that are known to be successful for all schools. These include:

- Dedicated blocks of uninterrupted time for literacy and numeracy in each school
- School improvement teams that meet regularly to look at the school data and plan next steps;
- A mechanism to regularly monitor the growth and progress of specific students in each school;
- A strategy for capacity building for instructional leadership;
- A strategy for capacity building for school staff to improve instructional effectiveness;
- A common assessment tool that is used in all of the schools for primary and junior literacy;
- Allocation of the resources to address the learning needs of students.

Thank you for your continued leadership and dedication to the students of Ontario.

Sincerely,

Avis Glaze

Cc: Deputy Minister
    Assistant Deputy Ministers
    Regional Managers